



Endangered Wolf Center  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

WINTER 2016



## OUR MISSION:

To preserve and protect Mexican wolves, red wolves and other wild canid species, with purpose and passion, through carefully managed breeding, reintroduction and inspiring education programs.

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### Dear Friends of the Endangered Wolf Center

I decided to get inspired while writing this article by going outside. Sitting with the warm sun on my face, a cool autumn breeze, birds singing and leaves rustling gives me a sense of clarity and calmness that I find difficult to obtain when at a desk under fluorescent lights.

I am saddened that as a society we have to label what once was an everyday activity for most of America's children 30 years ago; going outside and digging in the dirt, making forts and catching lightning bugs is now called "nature play."

The Endangered Wolf Center offers many opportunities to get back into nature. Our educational programs allow both adults and children to become intimate again with nature to heighten all five senses.

Year-end giving is upon us and I am delighted to rise to the challenge of a \$50,000 matching grant generously offered by the Joanne Woodward Trust, Clea Newman Soderlund and the August A. Busch III Charitable Trust. Every dollar donated through the end of the year will be matched up to \$50,000. This challenge grant marks a milestone for the Endangered Wolf Center as the largest in our history. As an organization that has experienced tremendous growth in the past three years, this grant symbolizes the faith that our stakeholders have in the continued success of the Center.

While our mission has always remained the same – to breed, reintroduce and educate – the educational component has become much more important in our fast-changing society. The Center has expanded all aspects of our education programming – tours, field trips, outreach, scout groups, distance learning and camp experiences – to focus on affecting change quickly. This increased effort ties in very nicely to what scientists and researchers already know as invaluable access to the outdoors and nature play. The benefits are boundless – increased focus in schoolwork, decrease in depression-related illnesses, increase in self esteem, overall sense of happiness, better conflict resolution and the list goes on.

The Center is dedicated to continuing to expand our educational programming to all urban areas of St. Louis where nature relatedness is much needed. A large project we are focused on for 2017 is adding a new education/multipurpose building. This building will allow us to accommodate hundreds of programs and reach many more children in the metropolitan area. I invite you, our longstanding supporters, to contribute to our challenge grant. Year-end donations will support the operational cost of the Center and allow our staff to focus on raising the final funds to support a new educational building.

I wish each and every one of you a joyous and fulfilling Holiday Season.  
Thank you for your continued support of our great mission.



Virginia Busch  
Executive Director



Molly, one of six swift foxes at the Center. Endangered Wolf Center photo by Michelle Steinmeyer.

## 2016 Events

**Dec. 3**

Holiday Boutique

## 2017 Events

**Feb. 10**

Trivia

**April 9**

Volunteer Appreciation  
Dinner

**April 21**

Wolves & Wine Auction

**Aug. 19**

Polo

**Oct. 21**

Wolf Fest

**Nov. 11**

Members' Day

**Dec. 2**

Holiday Boutique

**Messy Play Dates**

June 11

July 9

Aug. 13

**Winter Camp**

Jan. 14

**Spring Camps**

March 13

March 20

**Mini-Camps**

April 8

May 6

**Summer Camps**

June 12-16

June 19-23

June 26-30

July 5-7

July 10-14

July 17-21

July 24-27

**Fall Camp**

Oct. 14

For the latest on events,  
visit our website calendar at  
[endangeredwolfcenter.org](http://endangeredwolfcenter.org)

**Design by Jim Kuchar**  
**Editing by Steve Parker**

**On the cover:** Maned wolves  
Nopal and Nina. Related story on  
Page 5.

### Center is awarded AZA re-certification

The Endangered Wolf Center is proud to announce that in September at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums annual conference in San Diego, we received the great news that we earned AZA re-certification. Facilities go through a rigorous application process and then undergo an inspection led by experts in the field. This process occurs every five years to make sure the facility continues to meet the AZA's high standards.

Animal care is the priority for AZA, but to ensure that animals are well-cared for, the certification panel not only evaluates animal husbandry and veterinary care but also evaluates conservation efforts, education programs, research programs, operations, finances, safety protocols, staffing policies, governance procedures, guest services and future goals.

The Center is proud to be one of the few facilities in the country that is AZA certified and we strive to not only meet but to exceed AZA standards. Out of thousands of facilities in the United States that hold USDA permits to house animals, only 232 of them have AZA's seal of approval.

### Shop and help wolves Dec. 3

Do your holiday shopping and help wolves at the same time at our annual Holiday Boutique, Saturday, Dec. 3. The Celeste Ruwwe Gift Shop will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special \$10 mini-tours will be offered hourly from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., no reservations needed. Call 636-938-5900 for more information.

### Trivia Night set for Feb. 10

Trivia Night 2017 will be Friday, Feb. 10 at the Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Road, Kirkwood, MO 63112. The cost is \$30 per person (beer, soda, water and snacks included) or \$240 for a table of eight. Round sponsors get a discount on tables. This year, for a nominal fee you can upgrade to a VIP experience. Call 636-938-9306 to discuss sponsorship opportunities or to reserve seats.



U.S. Rep. Ann Wagner and members of her staff toured the Center June 28 to learn about endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves and recovery efforts for those species. Endangered Wolf Center photo.

### 'Red Wolf Revival' screening

Award-winning filmmaker Roshan Patel was present for the St. Louis screening of "Red Wolf Revival," his documentary about recovery efforts for the species in North Carolina. The Saint Louis Science Center and the Endangered Wolf Center partnered to present the film Nov. 10 at the Science Center. It was followed by a panel discussion featuring Patel; Pete Benjamin, Field Supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Red Wolf Recovery Program based in Raleigh, North Carolina; Tom Meister, biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation; Regina Mossotti, Director of Animal Care and Conservation; and Ashley Rearden, Director of Education.

### Center on 'Wild Kingdom'

Marlin Perkins is back on "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom." Actually, his image appears in a segment of the show's "Wolves" web series available at [wildkingdom.com](http://wildkingdom.com). Much of the series was filmed at the Endangered Wolf Center, founded in 1971 by Marlin Perkins and his wife Carol.

Marlin Perkins, former director of the Saint Louis Zoo, was the original and longtime host of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom," which debuted on NBC in January 1963. "Wild Kingdom" now exists online, where Stephanie Arne has assumed the role of host. Arne and a film crew visited the Center twice, in November 2015 and May 2016. "Wolves" consists of four parts: "Intro," "Language," "Landscape" and "The Pack Way."



Stephanie Arne during filming of the 'Wolves' web series.

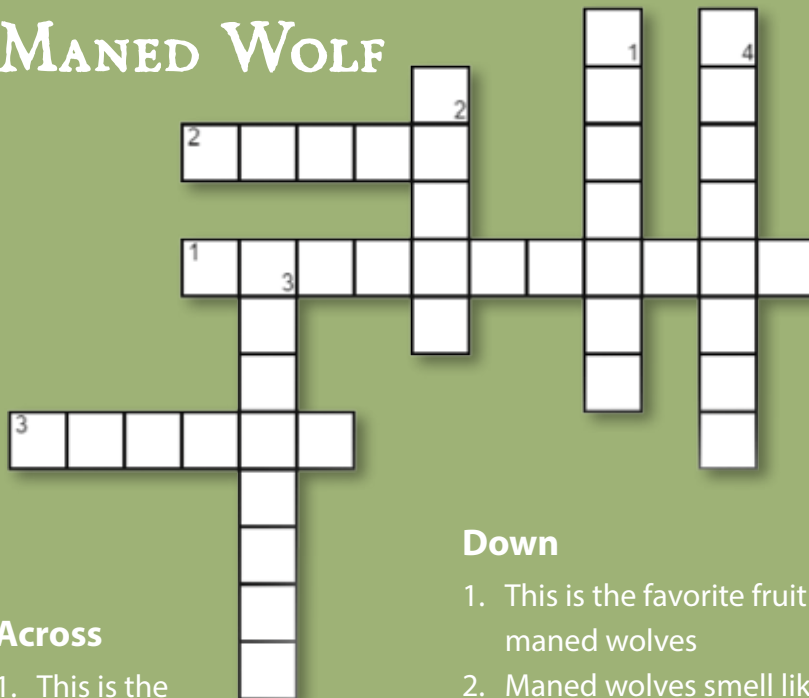
# PAGE FOR PUPS




# MANED WOLVES

To the left is Nopal, one of the Center's two maned wolves. Come out to the Center and visit them soon.

# MANED WOLF



## Across

1. This is the  nickname of the maned wolf
2. Maned wolves are born this color
3. The country where most maned wolves live

## Down

1. This is the favorite fruit of maned wolves
2. Maned wolves smell like this animal
3. This type of animal eats plants and animals
4. Maned wolves live this way, on their own

## Student Poems

Raking the snow back with your paws  
Eyeing the prey with the most flaws  
Digging your den up in a hill  
With good intentions, you will kill  
Old and weak make the easiest prey  
Life comes with death every new day  
Family and loyalty will not stray, with good  
care, and plentiful love.

*Rachel V.,*

*Fort Zumwalt South Middle School*

*The Center welcomes poetry submissions from local grade and high school students for upcoming newsletters. Poems should be about wolves or nature, and no longer than a half-page. Selected poets will get a free tour.*

Please send poems, with your name, grade and school, to Regina Mossotti, P.O. Box 760, Eureka, MO 63025

## Species Spotlight: Maned Wolves

By Sarah Holaday, Animal Keeper

Maned wolves are truly a unique species of canid, native to South America. Their coat is a rusty red color, with a black mane that runs from their ears down their back. They are tall, slender and long-limbed, characteristics that have earned them the moniker “fox on stilts.” Their indigenous name yaguaracú translates to “big red canid.”

One of their many distinct traits is that they are omnivorous, not carnivorous like most other large canids. To be an omnivore means that your diet is made up of plants and animals, just like most human diets. Half of a maned wolf’s diet consists of fruits and vegetables. The other half includes insects, rodents, birds, eggs and reptiles. Since they ingest so much plant matter, they actually aid in the dispersal of fruit seeds, especially their favorite fruit, the lobeira or “wolf’s fruit.” Research has shown that lobeira seeds have higher germination rates after passing through a maned wolf’s digestive system.

Maned wolves are typically found in the tall grasslands of South America, including Brazil’s cerrado biome. The cerrado is known as a biodiversity hotspot and is home to over 900 bird species and 200 mammal species. For this reason, the maned wolf is considered an umbrella species, meaning that if they are protected, many other species within the same ecosystem will be saved as well.

Despite their ecological importance, little is known about their habits in the wild. They are known to be shy and timid, patrolling large territories as individuals rather than in a pack. This elusiveness makes them incredibly hard to find and study. Most common knowledge about the maned wolf comes from zoos and other animal facilities that house and study them.

Current research conducted by the Maned Wolf Conservation Project focuses on stress levels of wild maned wolves and their proximity to humans. So far, research shows that individuals living on farmed land have higher cortisol levels, which can be an indicator of stress. Additionally, researchers have been able to successfully collect and preserve semen from wild males. This could have an incredible impact on the conservation of the species, since genetic material from the wild population could be introduced into the captive population and vice versa. The more genetically diverse a population is, the better it can withstand issues such as disease and natural disasters.

Public awareness and education continues to be an important aspect in the success of maned wolf conservation. The Endangered Wolf Center has been lucky enough to house maned wolves for the past 21 years, and has had several litters born here.

Currently, we have a breeding pair, a male and female named Nopal and Nina. As ambassadors for their species, they help educate the public about maned wolves and their importance in the South American ecosystem. Guests can usually find them curled up on the hillside napping or hunting for bugs.



Nopal, one of two maned wolves at the Center. Maned wolves are known for their unique vocalization called a “roar bark.” Endangered Wolf Center photo by Michelle Steinmeyer.

# Red wolves: The missing piece of our landscape's puzzle

By Regina Mossotti

Around dusk, just outside of St. Louis at the Endangered Wolf Center, embers in the campfire warmed our toes and we were surrounded by Missouri's oaks and hickories ablaze in the setting sun, showing off their full spectrum of viridian, orange and fiery autumnal yellows. The rolling hills surrounding us looked like an idyllic image plucked right out of a storybook. As night settled in, we hiked through the woods under a canopy of stars, owl calls

and rivers were home to a bounty of wildlife. But as European settlers flowed into the region, the establishment of land and wildlife management practices became an obvious necessity.

Missouri began actively managing species like whitetail deer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the animals had all but disappeared from the landscape. At the time, most deer populations in the

including elk, hellbender salamanders and the American burying beetle. Not every animal that used to call Missouri home has been so lucky. During the same period where deer populations saw their numbers climb exponentially, mountain lions, bobcats, wolves, bears and other large carnivores continued to be hunted and killed without restriction through the federal government's predator eradication programs.

Conservation efforts for black bears, started in the 1960s in the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains of western Arkansas, have brought a small population of black bear back into Missouri over the last 60 years. Infrequent sightings of mountain lions and gray wolves have occurred over the last half-century, but there are no extant populations in the state.

The loss of these keystone species also inadvertently opened the door for the rapid rise of invasive species like nutria, coyotes and feral hogs — a story that has played out in states across the country.

## Healing the landscape

"Sadly, a campaign of fear and gross misinformation plagued carnivores, and this put them into direct competition with early settlers" said Virginia Busch, Executive Director of the Endangered Wolf Center. Over the last two centuries, this competition has not boded well for the carnivores or for the ecosystems in North America. Once wolves and other carnivores were eradicated by the government, the deer and elk populations skyrocketed without anyone keeping them in check and the landscape suffered.

Wildlife managers couldn't have predicted what impact wolves would have on the ecosystem until they were finally reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in 1995. Before the reintroduction, Yellowstone had been devoid of wolves for over 75 years. It was a plant biologist from Oregon State University, Dr. William Ripple, who first noticed that something



Red wolves once were native to the entire southeastern United States, including Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky and Illinois. Today, they can only be found in a small area on the coast of North Carolina. Endangered Wolf Center photo by Andy Wilson.

greeting us along the way. I stopped and let out a long howl. Anticipation built as I waited for an answer. Finally, I heard it: a long, solitary soprano howl. The wolf's song was quickly met by a chorus of wolves answering her back. As I listened, the realization fell over me that this is what it used to sound like all across Missouri. Now, the only place you can hear a wolf howl in the state is at the Center.

For thousands of years before Missourians settled here, the hills, forests, streams and

United States had plummeted, but thanks to the development of federal refuges, more defined management practices, and the establishment of Departments of Conservation in Missouri and other states, the whitetail went on to mount one of the most successful recoveries of any North American mammal.

The Missouri Department of Conservation has led the charge in bringing back other species that had disappeared or were disappearing from the landscape,

was changing. He noticed that willow, aspen and several other plant species were starting to again sprout in the park.

Ripple was able to correlate the change with the return of wolves. Wildlife managers saw that without wolves, the elk numbers climbed to more than double their historic population. Elk and deer ate everything down to the dirt, and as trees fell there were no new saplings to replace them. Willow bushes could not sustain the elk's browsing, and many plants died off and did not return. The loss in plant diversity led to a loss in overall wildlife diversity.

Species such as coyote no longer had to compete with wolves for territory and soon pushed out foxes to become king in Yellowstone and across the United States. Foxes had coexisted with wolves (because there is no direct competition) and would often benefit by scavenging on wolf hunts. In many areas of the United States, without the wolves, fox populations declined, and soon there was rise in Lyme disease. Scientists discovered that this rise was directly correlated to the decline of foxes that would prey on mice that are carriers for the disease.

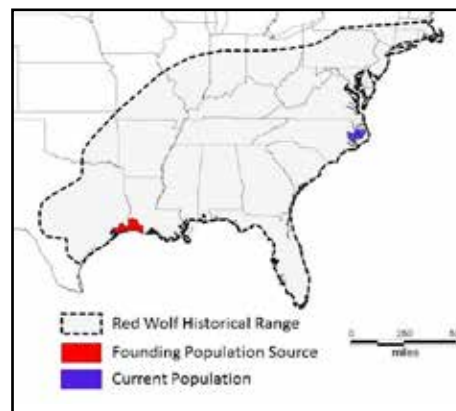
In Yellowstone, soon after the wolf returned, so did the plants, and so did many animals including beavers (once also nearly hunted to extinction because of its luxurious fur). Beaver used the willow and trees to make dams, dams created pools, and these pools became vital estuaries for endangered species like steelhead trout, for a diversity of waterfowl, and for long-ago extirpated amphibians. The plants that returned also increased shelter and food sources for songbirds, small mammals and pollinators like butterflies and insects.

### Mapping out the future

In 1971, years after the American red wolf howl had officially disappeared from oak-hickory savannahs of Missouri, famed zoologist and host of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" Marlin Perkins and his wife Carol founded the Endangered Wolf Center just outside St. Louis. Perkins had traveled the world and noticed how wolves and

other carnivores were in critical danger of becoming extinct. Massive amounts of antiquated misinformation surrounded the wolf everywhere he went, creating an aura of fear for the public, ranchers, hunters and even conservationists.

Over the last 45 years, the Endangered Wolf Center has worked with partners like the Saint Louis Zoo, Shaw Nature Reserve, Washington University, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and numerous other conservation organizations across the



country. By contributing to the hard work of nursing native ecosystems back to health by returning their keystone species and providing educational opportunities to stakeholders, the Center has helped save species from extinction.

There is still work to be done. For example, the red wolf was saved from extinction at the Endangered Wolf Center in collaboration with a handful of other zoological facilities that stepped up at a critical time in the 1970s. Missouri was one

of the last strongholds for the red wolf, but in the 1950s Mark Twain National Forest heard its last howl. The red wolf — once native to the entire southeastern United States — now can only be found in a small area on the coast of North Carolina.

This shy, elusive, 65-pound wolf is a vital component to keeping the ecosystems across the Southeast healthy and thriving. The red wolf is America's wolf, not native to any other country — truly "Made in the USA." But with fewer than 50 red wolves left in the wild, it is also the most endangered wolf in the world. With the precious few remaining in the wild and the small captive population, the Center and its key partners are focused on saving this national treasure.

Time and effort has shown that a healthy complete ecosystem benefits all who use the land — humans and animals alike. When the puzzle is complete (every piece where it belongs), the wildlife thrives. The animal species naturally balance one another. The hunters find a healthier population of prey to draw from. Maybe someday, when autumn rolls across Missouri's hills, it will be met again with the howl of the wolf. And with that song, the forest foliage will flourish into the color of flames, and fall the way it was for thousands upon thousands of years.

*Regina Mossotti is Director of Animal Care and Conservation at the Endangered Wolf Center.*



Show your support for red wolves with a bumper sticker from our Gift Shop.

## New direction for red wolves is filled with uncertainty

Nobody in the world of red wolf recovery was exactly caught off guard by the announcement in September from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that the program was going into a period of transition. But the announcement did cast a great deal of uncertainty about the future of the recovery program and where precisely red wolves would call home. Because of this uncertainty, the Endangered Wolf Center began assessing the feasibility of red wolf reintroduction in the southeastern United States and Missouri, and is seeking help from its supporters.



*One of eight red wolves living at the Center. Endangered Wolf Center photo by Michelle Steinmeyer.*

With fewer than 50 left in the wild, the American red wolf is the most endangered large carnivore in the world. The history of the red wolf is similar in many respects to so many of America's carnivores. The red wolf was once ubiquitous to the southeastern United States, including Missouri. Because of carnivore eradication efforts of the 19th and 20th centuries, in the late 1970s it became clear that the red wolf was near extinction, so USFWS sent trappers to capture the remaining wolves. Out of 400 individuals caught, only 14 were determined to be pure red wolves, which became the founders of the population that exists today. The USFWS launched the first-ever reintroduction program for a large carnivore in 1987 with releases in North Carolina.

The first released female to give birth in the wild was born at the Endangered Wolf Center, and for many years the red wolf did well and the population gained a foothold in the wild. But soon coyotes moved into North Carolina and the risk of hybridization increased. Biologists sterilized coyotes in the recovery area — and when the red wolf numbers were at their peak, the wolves didn't hybridize.

"Make no mistake, red wolves want to breed with red wolves," said Regina Mossotti, the Center's Director of Animal Care and Conservation. "They naturally kick out coyotes from an area. But, if they are disturbed — say if poaching increases and the population dramatically decreases — only out of desperation will they potentially chose a coyote as a mate. History shows that if we can

just get the population numbers up high enough, hybridization won't be a major issue."

Wildlife officials needed to put the hybridization threat and other misinformation in context, but in North Carolina, there has not been an extensive education program. Unfortunately, a negative campaign was launched by a few vocal individuals who were able to spread misinformation about wolves, which pushed the USFWS to examine the effectiveness of the recovery program. This negative campaign was loud enough to rally local and state politicians in 2014 to petition the service to shut down the program and declare the red wolf extinct in North Carolina. Twenty-one months later, the service finally issued a statement.

- First, the service has decided to move quickly to secure the captive population of red wolves, which is not sustainable in its current configuration.
- Second, the service will determine by October 2017 where potential new sites exist for additional experimental wild populations. (Research has shown that Missouri and Arkansas in the Ozark region are potentially the best recovery sites in the Southeast.) The service will ensure that any new recovery sites comply with all environmental rules and that they include public engagement and education.
- Third, the service will propose to revise the existing experimental population rule to apply only to the Dare County Bombing Range and Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina, where stable packs exist on federal lands. This proposed action will change the scope of and goals for the experimental population and is expected to be completed by December 2017. These proposed changes will go through appropriate environmental review and public comment.

Conservationists, biologists and zoological organizations see the announcement as an opportunity to re-imagine the future of red wolves across their historic range. The Center is working to launch educational programming in the Ozark region of Missouri and Arkansas to determine the feasibility of red wolf reintroduction.

But the research and educational outreach to southern Missouri requires dedicated resources, so the Center is turning to its supporters for help. The Education Department needs a vehicle to provide educational programming in the potential recovery area. The Center will also be using the outreach programs to assess and quantify stakeholder perceptions of wolves and carnivores, and to determine the effectiveness of red wolf education on reducing negative perceptions.

There are a few rare moments in endangered species recovery that you can point to and say: That was the critical moment! This is one of those rare moments and you can be part of it. To get involved and help with the efforts, please contact 636-938-9302. Let's make Missouri howl again!

# Agency is told to complete Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan

The 35-year-old Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan has been in need of serious updates for some time now, but it took a recent ruling by a U.S. District Court judge in Arizona to give the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Under a settlement agreement announced in October 2016, the USFWS is required to:

- Complete a Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan by Nov. 30, 2017.

Proponents of the lawsuit were well aware that such a ruling would have the potential to drastically improve the future footprint of the Mexican wolf across its native landscape, and it could also open up more recovery areas for the critically endangered species.

“This really is an important moment in time for reviewing the program,” said Virginia Busch, Executive Director at the Endangered Wolf Center, “and we were happy to lend our support to facilitate just that.”

Although opponents in the lawsuit were displeased with the judge’s decision, completing the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan will likely provide many new opportunities for all parties involved. The new plan will address and/or update existing mechanisms that attend to financial concerns for stakeholders in the region.

“It’s important that the recovery plan takes all parties into account,” Busch said. “We’re optimistic that a new recovery plan based on the best available science is going to benefit everyone involved in wolf recovery — including ranchers and other stakeholders in Arizona and New Mexico.”



*Francis, a Mexican wolf born at the Center in April 2015, was named in honor of Pope Francis, whose namesake was St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology. Endangered Wolf Center photo by Michelle Steinmeyer.*

Service (USFWS) the directive it needed. The ruling resulted from a lawsuit filed on behalf of the Endangered Wolf Center, Defenders of Wildlife, Wolf Conservation Center, Center for Biological Diversity and former USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator David R. Parsons.

- Conduct an independent peer review of the draft plan.
- Provide status reports on the recovery planning process to the court and the parties every six months until the recovery plan is issued.

## Carolita

April 2005 - September 2016

Carolita, a female Mexican wolf, was a special member of our pack. She was the daughter of Anna and Dude. She was named by Betty White, the famed actress and a strong supporter of our Center. White named Carolita after her friend Carol Perkins, who, along with her husband Marlin, founded the Center in 1971 with the mission of saving endangered wolves. Carolita did just that by teaching millions of people about the plight of her wild kin. To all that knew sweet Carolita, she will be greatly missed.



## Rocky

May 2001 - September 2016

Rocky was a very special, handicapped wolf who was brought to the Center from the wild as a pup. For more than 15 years, he lived a comfortable life here. Countless visitors saw this inspirational, important ambassador in his enclosure on the hill, where he was paired with Cedar. We have no doubt that Rocky received the best care at our Center and lived a long, happy life that his disabilities would have made impossible in the wild.



## OBITUARIES

## Center hosts workshop on caring for recovery species



Animal care workers from across the nation took part in the two-day Recovery Species Husbandry Workshop. Endangered Wolf Center photo.

Animal care professionals in November attended what has become an annual Recovery Species Husbandry Workshop at the Endangered Wolf Center.

The Center provides this opportunity for free to animal care workers to learn unique ways of caring for wolves that someday may return to the wild. This free workshop includes topics such as nutrition,

enrichment, housing, medical care and how to safely handle large canids.

Attendees help the veterinarian and the Center's expert staff during the wolves' annual medical exams and vaccinations. The goal for this course is to share the knowledge the Center has gained during its 45-year history of caring for endangered species.

This year, we hosted animal care workers from San Francisco Zoo and Gardens; Columbus Zoo and Aquarium; Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens; Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose, Texas; Wolf Haven International in Tenino, Washington; and Tulsa Zoo.

## Cross-fostered pups 'surviving, thriving' in the wild

As you might recall from an article in our Summer 2016 magazine, Endangered Wolf Center staffers set out on a historic mission April 23. We flew two just-born critically endangered Mexican wolf pups to New Mexico to be fostered by a wild pack. This historic joint effort by the Endangered Wolf Center and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service represented the first time pups born in captivity were "adopted out" in this way. Lindbergh and Vida — two pups from a litter of six born April 15 to Sibi and Lazarus — made the journey from St. Louis to New Mexico and were placed into the New Mexico-based Shepherd's Baseball Park (SBP) Pack.

A few days later, five Mexican wolf pups were born at Brookfield Zoo in Illinois and two of those pups were placed in the den of the Arizona-based Elk Horn Pack of wild wolves.

In May, another litter of Mexican wolf pups was born at the Endangered Wolf Center to Mack and Vera, and two of their pups — Valeria and Linda — were placed in the den of the Arizona-based Panther Creek Pack. All three wild dens were documented with five pups, and the addition of the captive-born pups

increased the total litter size of all three packs to seven each.

"It's a long way from St. Louis to the recovery area, and the time-sensitive nature of fostering adds an extra layer of intensity," said Regina Mossotti, Director of Animal Care and Conservation at the Endangered Wolf Center. "But seeing the pups safely into the wild — and learning now that they are not only surviving but thriving — makes the entire journey all the more remarkable."

In October 2016, biologists confirmed that at least one of the pups has survived in both the Panther Creek Pack and the Elk Horn Pack. This means that the fosters were successful and the packs accepted the pups into their families.

The goal of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program is to reintroduce the species to its native habitat, and biologists have developed this novel way of helping the effort. Fostering is a technique where wolf pups from one litter are placed with another litter. The wolf mother will adopt the additions as her own. Placing pups from captivity into a wild litter not only helps increase the population size in the wild but also helps increase genetic

diversity. It is a wonderful way to have wild parents (with an established territory and experience) raise and teach the pups how to survive.

"Collaboration is key to conservation success and we are grateful for our partnership with Fish and Wildlife Service and the Species Survival Plan zoological institutions," said Virginia Busch, the Center's Executive Director.



Board member and veterinarian Rhiannon McKnight checks on Mexican wolf Valeria before her cross-foster into the Panther Creek Pack in Arizona. Endangered Wolf Center photo.

## Expanding educational programs create need for new facility

Every year, our Center welcomes thousands of visitors who are curious to learn more about the incredible animals in our care. This gives us a tremendous opportunity to increase awareness about the species we work with and their importance in the wild.

We strive to inspire a deeper understanding and appreciation for wildlife and wild places in the hearts of the people we meet each year – and we're thrilled to say that each year, that number has continued to grow.

Our program offerings have skyrocketed in recent years, and today everyone can find something that interests them. Seasonal wolf camps for children, birthday parties, field trips, scout programs, overnight campouts and messy play days all offer great ways to engage young animal lovers. Our increased selection of public and private tours, wolf howls, enrichment and training sessions and behind-the-scenes tours draw visitors

of all ages. Wildlife enthusiasts can take part in our even more extensive programs like our memorable Keeper for a Day experience. We've also added popular niche programs like our photography tours, Wolves and Wine nights and Wolves and Yoga outings.

With our number and range of educational opportunities expanding, the time has come to expand our ability to deliver these in an even bigger way.

A new multipurpose educational facility that will serve as a dedicated Education Center will enable us to do just that. With this new building, we will be able to offer:

- Expanded reach through additional programs, tours and activities
- An extended camp season and room for more children per camp session
- An ability to accommodate an increased number of daily visitors

- A comfortable, inspiring environment for families, groups and individuals to cultivate learning
- The ability to serve the skyrocketing demand for our tours, private events, scout programs and more
- A venue to host private events, fundraisers, speaking engagements, and other educational or revenue-generating opportunities to help support our Center's mission

It is our hope that with increased education will come increased interest in saving these species. Our new Education Center will serve as a great way to reach more people, and inspire a passion for wolves and the last great wildernesses that depend on them.



Campers display their drawings of red wolves while standing outside the temporary trailer that housed Summer Wolf Camps this year.

# We'd love for you to spend time with us

Volunteer opportunities are available to match even the busiest of schedules



Volunteer Zoe Geist teaches a course on trees at Summer Wolf Camp. Endangered Wolf Center photo.

Are you looking for a meaningful way to spend some time? Look no further ... opportunities to volunteer at the Endangered Wolf Center are vast. From leading tours, to grounds maintenance, to howling with the wolves at our Campfire

Howl programs and everything in between, we can match you up with the perfect volunteer job for you.

We know your life may be busy, but with such a wide range of volunteer opportunities at all times of day and all days of the year, we know your perfect volunteer schedule is available here. We are just waiting on you to take the first step. The Center has a rapidly increasing need for additional volunteers in all roles, doing things that really make a difference in the lives of our animals at the Center and their counterparts in the wild.

One of our greatest needs right now is for volunteers who are excited to lead our Education programs. We offer field trips,

scout groups, tours for the public, evening howl programs, outreaches into schools and more. We offer special training that allows interested volunteers to become docents, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to lead tours and be a voice for our animals.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Matt Fox at 636-938-5900 or email him at [mfox@endangeredwolfcenter.org](mailto:mfox@endangeredwolfcenter.org).

As Oscar Wilde said, "The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." The time to act is now. Please contact Matt Fox today. The wolves are waiting for you.

## ANGELA EWING Volunteer

While she was growing up in South St. Louis, Angela Ewing's family spent many weekends at state parks and conservation areas hiking, camping, going on float trips and exploring nature. In the mid-1980s, when her brother was in Cub Scouts, she got to tag along for a tour at the Endangered Wolf Center. "While we were on the tour," she said, "the wolves started to howl and I was hooked. My love for wolves was born."

Although she works in graphic design, her interest in conservation and nature never waned. "I became a member of the Endangered Wolf Center in 1995 when I adopted Alano, a Mexican wolf, through the 'Adopt-A-Wolf' program. When her 17-year-old cockatiel, Vito, died in 2014, she decided she needed a new outlet and volunteered at the Endangered Wolf Center. "I figured that I'd always be busy — an excuse I had always used in the past as to why I didn't volunteer sooner — but I was going to make time. I told the volunteer coordinator that I was going to volunteer once in a while when I could fit it into my schedule. Wouldn't you know though, I got hooked on volunteering, and you can find me at the Center on most Saturdays.

"I enjoy teaching people about these wolves I've loved for so many years. I love leading tours and showing them how beautiful these animals are. I love watching people of all ages get giddy



and emotional when they hear the wolves howl for the first time," Ewing said. "It's my escape from my busy life. It is my passion. And hopefully, when the rest of my life slows down, I can spend even more time out here."

## MATT FOX Volunteer Coordinator

Matt Fox joined the Endangered Wolf Center as Volunteer Coordinator in June 2016, after serving as an Animal Care intern.

Before that, Fox worked as a field biologist with the Andean Bear Foundation, Panthera, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Sea Turtle Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund. He has worked in such remote locations as the Andes mountains of Peru, the Gobi Desert of Mongolia, the Intag Cloud Forest of Ecuador and the Limon Province of Costa Rica. Last summer, he surveyed the Onon Balj Strictly Protected Zone, an intensely isolated wilderness along the Siberian border, where he discovered a new species of vole, the *Myodes pseudovulpis*. Fox is a trained safari guide, achieving his 1st class certification with the Field Guide Association of Southern Africa in 2009.

Fox said that the protection and stewardship of nature is his lifelong mission, and that he is proud to further that goal by energizing citizen conservationists as Volunteer Coordinator.



## GIFTS RECEIVED APRIL 1, 2016 — SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

We make every effort to acknowledge all gifts received and to maintain accurate records. If you discover a discrepancy or have questions please call Judith at 636-938-9306.

### NEW AND UPGRADING MEMBERS

Our wild canids give a big "Howl of Recognition" to our new and current members who have increased their support to the Center.

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(CONTRIBUTIONS \$25,000 - \$99,999)  
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#### MEXICAN WOLF PACKMATES

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Bennett, Luke and Harrison Straube proudly named a Mexican wolf Rain.



Curator of Environmental Life David Lobbig and donor Ann Jackson at the Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center.

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George Farrell and Wendy Knudsen-Farrell won a home visit with our fennec fox Daisy at the Wolves & Wine Auction.

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Jan Klarich and Rachel Broom at an evening with Congresswoman Ann Wagner.

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Bill Siedhoff and Mary Ellen Cotsworth cheering at the Polo Match.

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Dianne Meyer and Jeffery Dudding. She donated funds to provide Rogue, a Mexican wolf, with a den camera.

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Dr. Pamela Gronemeyer and Stephen Kriegh named a red wolf in honor of Rebecca, their daughter, for her birthday.

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Shy Patel and Elizabeth Green at the Wolves & Wine Auction.

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# Wolves & Wine Auction will return in Spring 2017

## Inaugural event was successful and fun

The Endangered Wolf Center's second Wolves & Wine Auction will be held Friday, April 21, 2017 at Selkirk Auctioneers and Appraisers. The inaugural event, June 11, 2016, provided an evening filled with fun, refreshments and spirited bidding that raised more than \$50,000 for the Center.



Auctioneer Terry Beye kept the crowd entertained during the nonstop bidding action.

Sponsors of the 2016 Wolves & Wine Auction were:

- August A. Busch III Charitable Trust
- Hager Companies and Hager Family
- Stephen and Camilla Brauer
- Lohr Distributing Company
- Steven and Julia Brncic

Preceding the auction at Selkirk (4739 McPherson Ave, St. Louis, 63108), wine tastings and art showings were held at three galleries along McPherson in the Central West End: Duane Reed, Philip Slein and projects+gallery.

Hosts for the evening were Endangered Wolf Center Trustee Janet Connors and her husband, longtime local broadcast personality Larry Connors.

The Planning Committee consisted of Polly Bade, Suzy Brauer, Julia Brncic, Virginia Busch, Beth Campbell, Marjorie Dellas, Marguerite Garrick, Sabrina Lohr, Shy Patel, Michelle Steinmeyer, Virgil VanTrease, Susie Von Gontard and Paul Zemitzsch.

Event planner Rick Ruderer and Selkirk staff members helped stage the event.

Wolves & Wine was covered by Town & Style magazine and the Ladue News. Photographs of guests appeared in the publications and on their websites.



Janet and Larry Connors presented the Wolves & Wine Auction.



Sandra and Virgil VanTrease happily displaying their wine package won at the Wolves & Wine Auction.



Vickie Campbell, Chris Kostman and Virginia Busch. Campbell won the most auction packages at the Wolves & Wine Auction.

# Record crowd, generous sponsors make Wolf Fest a big success

We'd like to thank the record-setting crowd who helped make Wolf Fest 2016 the big success it was. And we especially want to thank the many sponsors who made our open house event on Oct. 8 possible:

**Premier Sponsor:**  
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*Ava Dharna poses with a raven.*

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Virgil and Sandra VanTrease  
Vet Stop Animal Clinic,  
Dr. Rhiannon McKnight  
Washington University at Tyson Research Center

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities for Wolf Fest 2017, call 636-938-9306. Next year, Wolf Fest will be Saturday, Oct. 21.

David Jackson and his Conservation Ambassadors again presented three shows. Ambassador animals this year included a barred owl, American alligator, raven, coyote, serval and kangaroo. Another fan favorite, Jonathan Offi and his amazing agility dogs, did three "Canines in the Clouds" performances.

Multiple booths and exhibitions fit in with Wolf Fest's theme of wildlife/conservation/outdoors.

Food trucks — Blues Fired Pizza, Curbside Cookery, St. LouisianaQ and Seoul Taco — offered delicious, savory choices.

## Thanks to the sponsors who made Polo 2016 possible

The 2016 event, on Aug. 27, again was held at Kräftig Field at Blue Heron Farms in Defiance, Missouri. We'd like to thank the many sponsors who helped make the 2016 event possible:



*The Beckmann family enjoying the Polo Match.*

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The Winnick Family Foundation

Guests had a chance to meet and photograph the players and get autographs.

The Kids Area featured games, mask-making and a bounce house. The event also featured a gift shop, silent auction, delicious food, soda and water, and adult beverages for those over 21. Opening ceremonies included a dove release by Wish Upon a Dove. At halftime, guests took part in a traditional champagne toast and divot stomp.



*Billy Busch hosted our Charity Polo Match at his field and played.*



*Polo sponsors Joe and Patricia Scott with their guests.*

# JOIN THE PACK TODAY!

Contribute to the possibilities of tomorrow. Join a growing group of people dedicated to wildlife preservation through your membership gift today.

Yes, I want to support and save the wolves with my membership gift of:

## Basic Membership Level

### ☐ \$50 Friend of EWC (\$5/month)

Includes free PredaTour for 2, a member gift, discounts in gift shop and select programs and magazine subscription

### ☐ \$95 Family Pack (\$8.50/month)

Includes all of the above and free PredaTour for 4

## Adopt-a-Wolf Membership Levels

### ☐ \$135 Adopt-a-Wolf (\$12/month)

Includes all of the above plus an adoption certificate, photo, bio, plush and updates from Animal Care staff

### ☐ \$250 Animal Keeper (\$22/month)

Includes all of the above plus an enrichment activity for 4

### ☐ \$500 Wolf Guardian (\$42/month)

Includes all of the above plus a beautiful photo book and an invitation to "Dine with the Keepers"

### ☐ \$1,000 Alpha Member (\$84/month)

Includes all of the above plus a free VIP Animal Interaction Tour for 4 (ages 14+)

## Payment Information:

☐ Enclosed is a check or money order payable to the Endangered Wolf Center.

☐ Please charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (as it appears on the card) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My company, \_\_\_\_\_ will match my contribution.

Send via enclosed envelope to: Endangered Wolf Center, PO Box 760, Eureka, Mo. 63025

## Thank you for your support!

☐ Yes, I want to contribute to the possibilities of tomorrow by joining a growing group of people dedicated to wildlife preservation through my recurring gift!

☐ I authorize the Endangered Wolf Center to make the following automatic monthly transfer of \$\_\_\_\_\_ from my (please check one option):

☐ Credit Card/Debit Account (simply fill out credit card form)

☐ I will set up a monthly bill payment at my bank

☐ Checking Account (simply fill out and enclose a check for your first payment)

Automatic transfers will occur each month on the following day:

Please check one: ☐ 3rd ☐ 18th

**This authorization will remain in effect until I notify the Endangered Wolf Center in writing that I wish to change or stop my contributions.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE HELP US MEET OUR \$50,000 MATCHING GRANT

Please help us meet our biggest matching grant offer ever! The Joanne Woodward Fund with Clea Newman Soderlund and the August A. Busch III Charitable Trust have offered to match dollar-for-dollar all donations up to \$50,000 until Dec. 31, 2016. Please consider a tax-deductible gift and help us reach this historic matching grant. You can make a donation via our website, [endangeredwolfcenter.org](http://endangeredwolfcenter.org). Please write "Matching Grant" in the notes field at the bottom of the donation form. You can also donate by calling 636-938-9306. Be sure to tell your friends when you do and encourage them to match your gift. Thanks everyone, and a special thank you to our generous matching grant sponsors!

## LEGACY GIFTS

We are deeply grateful for the significant commitments our friends and supporters make through their estate plans in the form of bequests or living trusts. For information on establishing a legacy that reflects your dedication to wildlife preservation, please call Rachel Broom at 636-938-9306.

## RELOCATING YOUR DEN? KEEP THE PACK INFORMED!

You can help us save resources and keep our records up-to-date by notifying us of new or incorrect mailing and email addresses. Together we will continue to keep you informed on wolf conservation issues.

## MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Small steps make big gifts! We heard you and we're responding to the many requests for a monthly donation program. We are proud to report that we have partnered with Caring Habits Inc. to make giving easy and safe for our members. Donations may now be made via credit card or bank account transfers either one-time or as a recurring gift.



Clea Newman Soderlund and Executive Director Virginia Busch.



August A. Busch III and Virginia Busch.



P.O. Box 760  
Eureka, MO 63025  
636-938-5900  
[www.endangeredwolfcenter.org](http://www.endangeredwolfcenter.org)

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If you would like to GO GREEN!  
send us your email address at  
[info@endangeredwolfcenter.org](mailto:info@endangeredwolfcenter.org)  
and we'll send email updates.



Daisy, one of our two fennec foxes, is a mainstay at Foxy Friday Wine & Cheese wolf howls. Endangered Wolf Center photo by Michelle Steinmeyer.